GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6900
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 105th meeting of the National Shipping Board, the apex body of the Ministry of Shipping has decided to deliberate on many of the important issues of the sector like development of coastal shipping, regulation of shipping lines, off shore and marine logistic support service, navigational issues, taxation etc;

(b) if so, the main decision taken in the meeting;

(c) the extent to which these decisions have been agreed upon by the Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed discussions could not take place. Consequently, no specific decision has been taken. However, the following recommendations have been made:-

(i) Automatic Identification System (AIS) should be introduced. This system requires on board a ship technology capable of providing information about a ship to other ships and to coastal authorities, automatically. In India introduction of AIS is very much essential for ensuring effective security of maritime trade and bringing Indian monitoring system at par with other maritime nations in Indian waters.

(ii) Concrete efforts should be made to prevent spurious distress calls. Spurious calls on the distress frequency have become a common occurrence in the recent past. In order to prevent such calls, an awareness campaign is needed to educate mariners.

(iii) Customs' duty on bunkers and spares required for coastal vessels should be exempted so as to increase the share of coastal shipping.

(iv) An Empowered Committee should be set up in the Ministry to deal with all matters connected with development of coastal shipping.

(c) Government has not yet received the recommendations of National Shipping Board.

(d) Does not arise.